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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: DOCKET NOS: 98N-230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

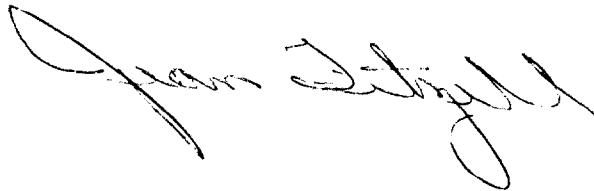
Dear FDA:

Each year the US egg industry force molts millions of hens in order to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune systems, predisposing the birds and their eggs to Salmonella poison, resulting in increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se). The egg industry hides under the protective cover of "standard agricultural practice." The public is kept uninformed.

I am very concerned about the many illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs and believe it is time to protect the health of consumers by protecting the well-being of laying hens. The FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. Because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems and is thus a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs, the FDA must ban this practice.

This petition should be granted without further delay.

Sincerely yours,



96P-0418

C24

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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
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20857-0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C24*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C25*

96P-0418/ *C24*